

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:TH

APPROVED BY NEA:ARDBAY

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P R 052232Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 001813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: HARD LINE CHRISTIAN POSITION

REF: BEIRUT 15684

FOR AMBASSADOR GODLEY

1. WE AGREE YOU SHOULD MAINTAIN YOUR CONTACT WITH THE MONKS FROM TIME TO TIME, TAKING ESSENTIALLY SAME TACK WITH THEM YOU DID DECEMBER 30. WE NOTED THAT KASSIS, ACCORDING TO A JANUARY 4 UPI DESPATCH, HAS COME OUT IN FAVOR OF DIVIDING THE COUNTRY INTO FEDERATED CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM STATES.

2. DRAWING ON YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MILITANT CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS, YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE GENUINENESS OF THEIR ATTACHMENT TO THE HOARY THESIS OF HAVING THE OVERSEAS LEBANESE COUNTED IN ANY FUTURE CENSUS WOULD BE HELPFUL TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESENT SITUATION. TO WHAT DEGREE IS FRANGIE'S RAISING OF THE MATTER SIMPLY A BARGAINING GESTURE? IT APPEARS TO US FROM YOUR WEEKEND
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REPORTING THAT SOME MUSLIM ELEMENTS SENSE THAT AT LEAST

PART OF THE HARD LINE CHRISTIAN POSITION LACKS CONVICTION.
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, POLICIES, CHRISTIANS, MOSLEMS, CENSUS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE001813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MDRAPER:TH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760003-0228
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacyby.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 15684
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HARD LINE CHRISTIAN POSITION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, MONKS
To: BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006